

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A method, comprising:

receiving, using a wireless controller, data transmitted from one or more wireless

5 transmitters adapted to communicate with a plurality of mobile terminals;

receiving descriptive information associated with at least a portion of the received

data from the one or more wireless transmitters; and

providing the received data and the associated descriptive information to a port

interface associated with the wireless controller.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of providing comprises encapsulating

the descriptive information with the data in a packet and providing the encapsulated packet to

the port interface.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of providing comprises providing the

data and the associated descriptive information to the port interface for at least one of storage

in a remote device and further processing.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the descriptive information

20 comprises receiving the descriptive information encapsulated with the data in a packet,

wherein the descriptive information comprises at least one high resolution timestamp

associated with the data and channel information associated with the transmission of the data,

wherein the channel information includes at least one of signal quality and relative signal

strength index.

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5. The method of claim 1, further comprises receiving a request from a remote unit through the port and further causing the wireless controller to perform at least one task responsive to the received request.

5 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the wireless transmitters comprise a plurality of access ports, and wherein the wireless controller communicates with a first access port of the plurality of access ports over a first communication channel, and wherein, in response to receiving the request, the wireless controller communicates with the first access port over a channel different from the first channel.

10 7. A wireless switch, comprising:
an interface; and
a controller communicatively coupled to the interface, the controller adapted to:
receive data transmitted from a plurality of access ports, wherein the data has
15 associated descriptive information; and
provide at least a portion of the received data and the associated descriptive
information to a port interface associated with the wireless switch.

8. The wireless switch of claim 7, wherein the controller is adapted to provide
20 the descriptive information with the data to the port interface.

9. The wireless switch of claim 7, wherein the controller is adapted to provide at least a portion of the data and the associated descriptive information to the port interface for substantial real-time monitoring using the remote device.

10. The wireless switch of claim 7, wherein the controller is further adapted to receive a request from a remote unit through the port interface and wherein the controller is adapted to cause the wireless switch to perform at least one task responsive to the received request.

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11. The wireless switch of claim 7, wherein the controller is responsive to commands received from a remote device.

12. The wireless switch of claim 7, wherein the controller is adapted to provide the data and associated descriptive information to the port interface for storage in a storage unit of a remote device.

13. The wireless switch of claim 7, wherein the descriptive information comprises at least one of a timestamp associated with the data and channel information associated with the transmission of the data, wherein the channel information includes at least one of signal quality, channel number to use, and relative signal strength index.

14. A system, comprising:
a plurality of mobile terminals;
a wireless switch adapted to:
receive data transmitted from the plurality of mobile terminals, wherein the data has an associated descriptive information; and
provide at least a portion of the received data and the associated descriptive information to a port interface associated with the wireless switch.

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15. The system of claim 14, further comprising at least one access port adapted to receive the data from the mobile terminals and further adapted to transmit the data to the wireless switch.

5 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the wireless switch is adapted to receive the data and the descriptive information associated with the data.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein the wireless switch provides an encapsulated packet including the data and the associated descriptive information.

10 18. The system of claim 14, wherein the wireless switch is adapted to receive commands from a remote device and perform at least one task responsive to the received commands.

15 19. The system of claim 14, wherein the descriptive information comprises at least one of a timestamp associated with the data and channel information associated with the transmission of the data, wherein the channel information includes at least one of signal quality and relative signal strength index.

20 20. The system of claim 14, further comprising a remote device that is adapted to communicate with the wireless switch via the port interface, wherein the remote device is at least one of a wireless sniffer, performance monitor, and wireless intrusion detection server.

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21. An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving, using a wireless controller, data transmitted from a plurality of access ports, wherein the data has associated descriptive information; and

means for providing at least a portion of the received data and the associated descriptive information to a port interface associated with the wireless controller.

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